

Tips for Revising 😊



Before you get started

- Make sure you understand the assignment as best as possible. Read through the assignment guidelines one more time, so that they are fresh in your mind.
- Remember that a paper can always be improved by revision, no matter how good the writer is.
- Try to imagine that you have never read the paper before. Think like a reader, and not like a writer.

First, let's talk about revising on your own!

Process tips

- Use spell check! → This is the simplest way to start revising, so use it!
- Try working with a printed copy. It's important to give your eyes a break sometimes and it also changes your perspective.
- Read your paper aloud. This can help you identify mistakes by hearing them.
- Try a reverse outline → Identify the key points of each paragraph, and make sure these key points are presented in the best order. This will help maintain a good flow.

Strategies

- Evaluate your thesis or main argument
 - Take a look at all other content after doing this, to ensure that it ties back to your thesis or main argument.
- Be clear and concise → Clear out any rambling or unnecessary "fluff."
- Look for repeated word/phrase choices and try to change some.
- Sometimes revising means rewriting your thesis, because maybe your content went a different direction. That's okay! It is much simpler to revise one sentence than a whole paper.
- Avoid using a thesaurus too much. But if you do use it, make sure you know what the new word means, and how it works in your sentence.

Now, let's talk about revising after receiving feedback from someone else!

- Try asking a classmate from the same class to give you some feedback → they know the class and assignment material.
- If you don't understand someone's feedback → don't be afraid to ask them!
 - Remember that everyone has a different style of giving feedback.
- Focus on one suggestion at a time. This way you won't get too overwhelmed.
- Remember they are suggestions. You don't have to incorporate everything someone suggests.
- Don't worry about the amount of feedback. Just because there's a lot, doesn't mean you did a poor job on your paper. Actually, it could mean your professor really liked it!